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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

[Letters addressed to "Correspondents" will receive attention in this column. Inquiries are solicited.]

Q. What are Blue Points? Y. A. Oysters from Blue Point, Long Island, N. Y.

Q. How should a person proceed to collect a war claim? C. N. M.

A. Communicate with your congressman.

Q. Where are the headquarters of the Carnegie hero fund? E. B. R.

A. Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Q. Which has the largest navy, the United States or Japan? J. B. H.

A. The United States, as we have twenty-six battleships, modern, to Japan's eleven.

Q. Please give the population of Japan and of the United States. J. C. McG.

A. The estimated population of Japan is 52,300,000. The United States has a population of 91,972,266.

Q. When does the Panama exposition take place and where? I. V. A.

A. The Panama-Pacific International Exposition will open in San Francisco, Cal., about January 1, 1915.

Q. What is a superficial yard? J. M.

A. Probably a linear or square yard, applied to measurement of surfaces, although the term is not a happy one.

Q. In the sentence, "A question and its answer," would you call "it's" a misspelled word? D. E. McC.

A. Yes; it is an orthographical error.

Q. What was the name of the man who shot Jim Fisk and what did they do with him? J. J. D.

A. Ed. Stokes. He was tried for the shooting, convicted of manslaughter and served a term in jail.

Q. (1) What States have State-wide prohibition? (2) What States have woman suffrage? A. S. J.

A. (1) Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota and Tennessee. (2) Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington and California.

Q. Was the record of Dan Patch for a mile, 1:55, made on a public race-track? E. A.

A. It would need to be to go on the record books. Dan Patch did the mile in 1:55 twice on the same day, September 8, 1906, at St. Paul, Minn. He was paced by a runner carrying a wind-shield, the runner preceding the pacer.

Q. (1) How many people die annually of tuberculosis in this country? (2) What amount is expended each year to maintain the army and navy? L. K.

A. (1) In 1900, 11,059. The report for 1910 has not been published. (2) For this year Congress has appropriated \$126,405,509.24 for the navy, \$93,374,755.97 for the army and \$5,473,707 for forts and fortifications.

Q. (1) What English novelist wrote a book showing the evils of imprisonment for debt? (2) What is a retroactive law? W. E. B.

A. (1) Charles Dickens directed attention to the matter in his novels and thus aroused the British public to the great injustice of punishing a debtor in this fashion. The system was also treated by other novelists. (2) One that affects things which occurred before the law was passed.

Q. Please give some information on the history of foot binding in China? L. M. C.

A. This is one of the subjects connected with China about which little is known. The Chinese themselves do not know the custom originated, or when, or where, and Chinese writers have sought in vain for the facts. A great deal has been written by Chinese about the custom and theories have been advanced to the effect that the custom arose through the desire of the men to keep the women at home, that the idea was of feminine origin (the men admiring small feet) and, also, that the custom was introduced by the Manchus. But the practice extends so far back into the past that nobody

knows much about its beginnings.

Q. (1) What is the chief industry of North Carolina? (2) What is the character of the soil? (3) What kind of a climate has it? Y. S. D.

A. (1) The manufacture of cotton and tobacco makes up the greater part of the industries of North Carolina. Owing to the great abundance of streams available for water power, the manufacturing industries of the State are rapidly increasing, especially with regard to the cotton trade. (2 and 3) In the census of farm products, North Carolina fills every blank in the list of crops raised in the United States. Its biggest crops are corn, cotton and tobacco, however. The climate is quite even and the mean temperature is 59 degrees, which is the average temperature for North America. North Carolina is on the same isothermal line as California, Southern France and Northern Italy, and has the characteristics of those sections.

Q. (1) What is the meaning of the stars and stripes in our flag and why was it called a floating piece of poetry? (2) What is the meaning of bunting? (3) What day of the week was February 8, 1809? S. A. N.

A. (1) George Washington spoke of the flag in the following terms: "We take the star from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty." Later it was decided that each State should be represented in the blue field by a star. Probably the best explanation is that the stars represent the states.

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